

SPECIAL EDITION ALL IN!

DBHDS Special Update from Commissioner Ferguson

April 15, 2015

As you know, the Transformation Teams' work has been well underway for six months, and the groups have been extremely productive. So far, they have finalized and submitted the first round of recommendations aimed at transforming our system into one that promotes and improves quality, access and accountability. The next step of this process is soliciting public comment.

DBHDS is moving away from a “one size fits all approach” and towards a more tailored approach that addresses individuals' precise needs. Public comment is essential to formulating this strategic approach. I firmly believe broad public input is a key component to ensure we create a system that is flexible, responsive, high quality, accountable, and accessible for all Virginians who need specific behavioral health and developmental disability services. As a result, we are now embarking on an intensive public comment period that will last through the month of May.

We have posted the recommendations for you to view at the following [link](#). Also on this page, you will find a way to submit your feedback on the recommendations. The public comment period is open through May 31, 2015.

Also, the transformation co-chairs and DBHDS staff will be holding town hall style meetings so you may hear the recommendations in person. We will be holding these meetings in Williamsburg, Charlottesville, Manassas and Wytheville at the dates and locations listed below:

- **Monday, May 11:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland St. Williamsburg, VA 23188
- **Tuesday, May 12:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Ferlazzo Human Services Building, 15941 Donald Curtis Drive Suite 200, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191
- **Friday, May 15:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Piedmont Valley Community College, Main Building, Auditorium Room 229, 501 College Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22902
- **Wednesday, May 20:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Snyder Auditorium, Wytheville Community College, 1000 E Main St, Wytheville, VA 24382

I encourage all stakeholders across the system to attend these public town hall meetings or submit comment through the website to provide feedback on the first round recommendations. The four teams will receive new questions to begin round two of the process in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please know that your thoughts and feedback will help further refine these recommendations with the goal of improving services to people with behavioral health disorders or developmental disabilities and their families.

Please pass this meeting information along to your key contacts and anyone else who may be interested. We will be posting it on our website and official social media feeds, which you can link to or repost.

Thank you very much. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Holly Mortlock](#), DBHDS Policy Director.

Let's **BE BOLD** Virginia! I'm **ALL IN**!

Debra Ferguson, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services